

16 June 1987

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SUBJECT: Talking Points for Morris Busby to Use with SecState

-- During the period, six air missions were flown, delivering 31,530 pounds of cargo to resistance forces. Cumulative totals thus far are 137 missions, delivering 690,195 pounds (345 tons) of cargo.

-- Seventy-one FDN students arrived at the covert training facility for training on 7 June.

- Forty-six of these students are attending the Guerrilla Warfare Leadership (GWL) course. The remaining 25 students are participating in the first iteration of the Guerrilla Warfare Command and Staff/G-5 Staff Officers' (GWC&S) course.

- Both classes are scheduled to graduate on 19 July.

-- The Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) directorate had successful meetings in Miami during the past week. The most significant achievement was that the directorate adopted a firm policy towards the Arias peace plan. The directorate met with both President Arias and President Duarte to discuss the plan and with Ambassador-at-large Philip Habib for 2 1/2 hours. Although the Esquipulas meeting has now been postponed, the directorate now has a well-established public and diplomatic position on the Arias plan.

-- The Resistance aerial propaganda program suffered a setback on 15 June when an FDN Baron carrying the chief of the FDN air arm, Juan Gomez, and two others was forced down just inside Honduras. The aircraft was returning from a successful leaflet drop over Esteli when it encountered hostile fire near the Sandinista garrison at Telpaneca. It is unclear what hit the Baron, but the aircraft's mission profile suggests that it was a Soviet-made SA-7 or SA-14 anti-air missile. The crew (Gomez, his son, and a kicker) were not seriously hurt in the crash. The plane, however, was totaled.

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-- Resistance forces claimed to have downed a Sandinista MI-17 helicopter [redacted] in Jinotega Department on 12 June. The Sandinistas confirm that an MI-17 went down on the 12th, but attributed its loss to mechanical failure. [redacted] all three of the helicopter's crew and 12 passengers, possibly including the chief of military intelligence for the 6th Military Region, were killed in the crash.

-- Resistance military activities continued at a high pace throughout Military Regions I and VI. Elements of the FDN Santiago Meza Regional Command claimed to have engaged a large Sandinista force near Waslala on 31 May, resulting in some 90 Sandinistas killed in action. In addition, FDN special operations teams caused electrical blackouts in at least four Nicaraguan cities.

-- The Managua regime continued to receive large amounts of Soviet and East Bloc military hardware. Preparations were being completed by week's end for a probable Cuban arms delivery at Rama, and at least 120 military cargo trucks and 80 military utility vehicles were delivered to Corinto in early June. Additionally, the Sandinistas recently contracted for another six armed MI-17 helicopters, and a Soviet arms carrier is en route from the Black Sea to either Nicaragua and/or Peru.

-- The Sandinistas continued to show concern for Resistance aerial resupply operations. The air force set up a Soviet-made aerial surveillance radar near Puerto Cabezas in the northeast early in the week and attacked a ground reception committee in the south, leading to the capture of most of the dropped supplies. The attack against Southern Front commander Ganso's forces was particularly damaging as the compromise of Ganso's personal diary may force a suspension of resupply efforts in that area.

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